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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/005,263	12/03/2001	Brian L. Smith	5181-91800	1331
7590	02/15/2006			EXAMINER TABONE JR, JOHN J
Rory D. Rankin Conley, Rose, & Tayon, P.C. P.O. Box 398 Austin, TX 78767			ART UNIT 2138	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 02/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/005,263	SMITH, BRIAN L.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	John J. Tabone, Jr.	2138

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 April 2002.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 14 March 2002 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 04292002.
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. .
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1-23 have been examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 1:

This claim recites the limitation “detecting a fault”, however, it is not clear what type of fault is being detected, (i.e. “detecting interconnect and bridge faults” as stated in the preamble). Therefore, the claim is indefinite. Clarification and correction is required in response to this office action.

Claims 2-10:

These claims inherit the same deficiencies of indefiniteness as claim 1 and, as such, are also rejected for the same reasons as claim 1. The Examiner will not speculate as to the meaning of these claims and, therefore, claims 2-10 will not be further examined on the merits.

Claim 11:

This claim recites in the preamble “An entity configured to facilitate interconnect and bridge fault testing”, however, the claim language is ambiguous as to where interconnect and bridge fault testing is facilitated and, therefore, causes the claim to be indefinite. No fault testing is actually being performed as claimed. Clarification and correction is required in response to this office action.

Claims 12-15:

These claims inherit the same deficiencies of indefiniteness as claim 11 and, as such, are also rejected for the same reasons as claim 11. The Examiner will not speculate as to the meaning of these claims and, therefore, claims 12-15 will not be further examined on the merits.

Claim 16:

a.) This claim recites the limitation “detecting a fault” first occurrence on line 7 and “detecting a fault” second occurrence on line 14. It is not clear to the Examiner whether “a fault” first occurrence on line 7 is the same or different from “a fault” second occurrence on line 14. Also, it is not clear what type of “a fault” is being detected, (i.e. “detecting interconnect and bridge faults” as stated in the preamble). Therefore, the claim is indefinite.

b.) This claim recites in the preamble “An entity configured to facilitate interconnect and bridge fault testing”, however, the claim language is ambiguous as to where interconnect and bridge fault testing is facilitated and, therefore, causes the claim to be indefinite.

Clarification and correction is required in response to this office action.

Claims 17-18:

These claims inherit the same deficiencies of indefiniteness as claim 16 and, as such, are also rejected for the same reasons as claim 16. The Examiner will not speculate as to the meaning of these claims and, therefore, claims 17-18 will not be further examined on the merits.

Claim 19:

This claim recites in the preamble “A system configured to detect interconnect and bridge faults”, however, the claim language is ambiguous as to where interconnect and bridge fault testing is being detected and, therefore, causes the claim to be indefinite. No fault detecting/testing is actually being performed as claimed. The claim limitations “in response to detecting a [transmitter/receiver] test” does not constitute detecting interconnect and bridge faults.

Clarification and correction is required in response to this office action.

Claims 20-23:

These claims inherit the same deficiencies of indefiniteness as claim 19 and, as such, are also rejected for the same reasons as claim 19. The Examiner will not speculate as to the meaning of these claims and, therefore, claims 20-23 will not be further examined on the merits.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1, 11, 16 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Smith et al. (US-6505317), hereinafter Smith.

The applied reference has a common Assignee with the instant application.

Based upon the earlier effective U.S. filing date of the reference, it constitutes prior art under 35 U.S.C. 102(e). This rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) might be overcome either by a showing under 37 CFR 1.132 that any invention disclosed but not claimed in the reference was derived from the inventor of this application and is thus not the invention "by another," or by an appropriate showing under 37 CFR 1.131.

Claim 1:

Smith teaches transmitting a first data (test pattern 300) via a first transmitter (203, Fig. 5B), wherein the first data corresponds to a first placement designation; transmitting a second data (test pattern 300) via a second transmitter (203, Fig. 5B), wherein the second data corresponds to a second placement designation, and wherein the second placement designation is different than the first placement designation. Smith also teaches receiving the first data (300, 200S-1, Fig. 5B) at a first receiver (204,

200S-1, Fig. 5B) and receiving the second data (300, 200S-2, Fig. 5B) at a second receiver and detecting a fault in response to determining one or both of the received first and second data do not match an expected data. (Col. 6, ll. 30-46, col. 7, ll. 7-14).

Claim 11:

Smith teaches a signal connector configured to transmit a signal, wherein said connector is assigned a first placement designation; and a control unit configured to: transmit a first data via said signal connector, wherein said first data corresponds to said first placement designation, in response to detecting said first placement designation has been selected for a transmitter bridge test; and transmit a second data different from said first data via said signal connector in response to detecting a placement designation different from said first placement designation has been selected for a transmitter bridge test; transmit a third data via said signal connector, wherein said third data corresponds to a second placement designation, in response to detecting said signal connector is coupled to a first receiver, said second placement designation corresponds to said first receiver, and said second placement designation has been selected for a receiver bridge test; transmit a fourth data different from said third data via said signal connector in response to detecting a placement designation different from said second placement designation has been selected for a receiver bridge test. (Col. 6, ll. 30-46, col. 7, ll. 7-14, Fig. 4 and 5B).

Claim 16:

Smith teaches a signal connector configured to receive a signal, wherein said connector is assigned a first placement designation; and a control unit configured to:

receive a first data via said signal connector; detect a fault in response to detecting: said signal connector is coupled to a transmitter assigned a second placement designation; said second placement designation has been selected for a transmitter bridge test; and said first data does not correspond to said second placement designation; detect a fault in response to detecting: said first placement designation has been selected for a receiver bridge test; and said first data does not correspond to said first placement designation. (Col. 6, ll. 30-46, col. 7, ll. 7-14, Fig. 4 and 5B).

Claim 19:

Smith teaches a first entity including a first transmitter, wherein said first transmitter comprises a first signal connector, and wherein the first signal connector corresponds to a first placement designation; and a second entity including a first receiver, wherein said first receiver comprises a second signal connector, and wherein said second signal connector corresponds to a second placement designation; wherein in response to detecting a transmitter test: the first entity is configured to convey a first data which corresponds to said first placement designation, and the second entity is configured to expect to receive said first data, in response to detecting the selection of said first placement designation; and the first entity is configured to convey a second data different from said first data, in response to detecting the selection of a third placement designation which is different from said first placement designation; wherein in response to detecting a receiver test: the first entity is configured to convey a third data which corresponds to said second placement designation, and the second entity is configured to expect to receive said second data, in response to detecting the selection

of said second placement designation; and the first entity is configured to convey a fourth data different from said third data, in response to detecting the selection of a fourth placement designation which is different from said second placement designation. (Col. 6, ll. 30-46, col. 7, ll. 7-14, Fig. 4 and 5B).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John J. Tabone, Jr. whose telephone number is (571) 272-3827. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Albert DeCady can be reached on (571) 272-3819. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

John J. Tabone, Jr.
John J. Tabone, Jr.
Examiner
Art Unit 2138

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